



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Baltimore District

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News Release

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Corps of Engineers begins annual drawdown at Sayers Dam

Baltimore— The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, announced today that it has begun the first phase of its annual winter drawdown at Foster Joseph Sayers Dam near Howard, Pa.

Normally, the Corps lowers the water level of the lake by five feet between Nov. 15 and Dec. 1. However, this year the drawdown is beginning about one week earlier and may extend one week later than normally scheduled. This extended drawdown period is in response to the extremely dry conditions that currently exist over much of central Pennsylvania. During the drawdown, small amounts of additional water will be released each day to supplement the low flow in the West Branch Susquehanna River.

As in previous years, the initial drawdown will be limited to five feet. Later this winter, a second drawdown is planned which will lower the lake level an additional 15 feet. The start of the second drawdown will be based on conditions within the watershed later this winter.

The drawdown of the lake will serve to provide additional flood control storage during the normal spring runoff and will minimize potential water quality problems in the lake. The Corps plans to begin refilling the lake in the spring.

In addition, the drawdown is part of an effort to reduce dust conditions that occasionally develop in the vicinity of the reservoir. As a result of the past several winter drawdowns, no occurrences of dust were reported even though conditions were favorable for dust formation on several occasions.

The Baltimore District is responsible for the operation of 16 dams and reservoirs in New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland.

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